This will enable the department to provide about 11 lakh new connections. No allocation of funds beyond the 7th Plan has been made.

Shortage of anti-TB drugs

158. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there is an acute shortage of anti-TB drugs in the country and its production fall short of requirement by one third;

(b) if so, what is the total annual requirement of anti-TB drugs in the country at present ;

(c) what is the annual production of such drugs in the country at present; and

(d) what action Government has taken or propose to take to boost the production of anti-TB drugs in the country and to meet the requirements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) There is no shortage of anti-TB drugs. Indigenous production and availability in the country are tailored to market demand. The prduction in the organised sector of anti-TB drugs during 1985-86 was 762.80 tonnes.

(d) The Government has already delicensed the production of anti-TB drugs. In addition, to encourage the production of the two important anti-TB drugs, namely, Ethambutal and Rifampicin, custom duty concessions have also been extended.

Modernisation programme of Department of Posts

159. SHRI CHITTA BASU : SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to undertake a modernisation programme for the Department of Posts ;

(b) if so, what are the details of the programme :

(c) whether such programme would result in the joblessness of a large number of postal workers; and

(d) if so, what steps are being contemplated by Government to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Seventh Five Year Plan envisages schemes to increase the efficiency of Postal operations involving a total outlay of Rs. 39 crores towards mechanisation and modernisation of Postal Services. The different schemes, as provided for in the 7th Five Year Plan outlay are as follows :

(Rs. lakhs)

(i) Machines for Counter	55 aids
(ii) Mechanisation of Mail handling at metropolitan cities .	2375
(iii) Bag de-dusting equipment	25
(iv) Regional Workshops and departmental printing press .	660

	(Rs. lakhs)
(v) Modernisation of Stamps and Seals Factory	100
(vi) Management Information System, E.D.P. system and other R& D efforts including introduction of new services	685

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The modernisation programme will upgrade the skills of the staff employed in these areas for which training is being arranged to be imparted.

Guaranteed Postal Service

160. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have under considertion a proposal to introduce a 'Guaranteed Postal Service' in the country on payment of additional charges ;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal ; and

(c) what progress has been made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to introduce Speed Post Service, both Internal and International, in selected towns in the country.

(b) (i) the Internal Speed Post is proposed to be introduced at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Bangalore for the present. The articles booked under the service will carry a time frame for delivery on the following working day. A special charge will be payable on such articles in addition to the normal postage for registered air mail articles.

(ii) The International Speed Post Service is proposed to be introduced between India and U.K., U.S.A., Federal Republic Germany, Japan and Hong Kong. International Speed Post Service will be available from Delhi, Bombay Calcutta and Madras. International Speed Post Service will be limited to documents *i.e.* Business papers including cheques, computer data like punched cards, tapes, discs, legal documents, etc. The weight of a single item shall not exceed 2 Kg. The tariff for the articles which are booked as International Speed Post items will be higher than that for ordinary airmail registered letter. The items will be delivered within a time frame between 48 to 72 hours to the Speed Post Centres of the above mentioned countries. In case of U.S.A it would take a little longer.

(c) (i) It is proposed to introduce the Internal Speed Post Service from 1-8-86.

(ii) It is proposed to introduce the International Speed Post service from 1-8-1986 between India and U.K., Federal Republic of Germany and Hong Kong. The service for U.S.A. and Japan will be introduced subsequently.

Amount frozen with sick units

161. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :
SHRI DIPEN GHOSH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the study conducted by the Association of Indian Engineering Industry, credits amounting to over Rs. 3274 crores are frozen with sick units ;

(b) if so, what is the State-wise distribution of the said credit ; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to recover the credit ?